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9
10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 WAYMO LLC,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 UBER TECHNOLOGIES INC.,
16 OTTOMOTTO LLC, OTTO TRUCKING
LLC,

17 Defendants.

18 Case No. 3:17-cv-00939-WHA

**REPLY OF NON-PARTY WITNESS
JOHN GARDNER IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION PURSUANT TO FRE 611 AND
THE COURT'S INHERENT POWER**

19 Date: January 30, 2018

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Dept.: Courtroom 12, 19th Fl.

Judge: The Honorable William H. Alsup

Trial Date: February 5, 2018

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 Waymo opposes non-party John Gardner's motion seeking advance disclosure of
 3 Waymo's proposed trial questions, characterizing such relief as "extraordinary" and
 4 "extreme," and arguing that the rules cited by Mr. Gardner (FRE 611 and FRCP 16(a)) do not
 5 authorize the Court to grant such relief. Rather, the relief sought is narrowly tailored to
 6 ensure that Mr. Gardner can provide orderly testimony, and that the Court's trial proceedings
 7 are not unnecessarily disrupted by privilege determinations which could be resolved by the
 8 parties in advance. Rule 611 codifies the Court's broad authority to manage the conduct of
 9 trials over which it presides, including the relief sought in this motion. Waymo's attempts to
 10 distinguish the Rule 16(a) cases cited by Mr. Gardner are inapposite, and side-step the court's
 11 inherent authority to fashion procedures to protect witnesses and to make trials fairer and
 12 more efficient.

13 Waymo has provided no substantive assurance that it will not seek privileged
 14 information at trial, saying only that it "does not plan to ask questions that were asked" at Mr.
 15 Gardner's deposition and objected to on grounds of privilege. That leaves open a vast
 16 universe of possible questioning that could touch upon privilege rights held by one or more of
 17 Mr. Gardner's clients and common interest issues that have not yet been litigated in this
 18 proceeding. Waymo has not explained how the presentation of its case will be harmed by the
 19 relief sought. Under these circumstances, Waymo should provide its questions to counsel for
 20 Mr. Gardner in advance so that the parties may resolve any potential privilege and common
 21 interest issues before trial.

22 **II. ARGUMENT**

23 **A. Waymo Fails to Provide Sufficient Assurances That It Will Not Seek
 24 Privileged Information In Its Questioning**

25 Mr. Gardner's representation of Anthony Levandowski as well as Ottomotto LLC,
 26 Tyto Lidar LLC, Sandstone Group LLC, Dogwood Leasing LLC and other entities creates a
 27 significant risk that Waymo's questioning will implicate privileged information, or which is
 28 protected by the common interest doctrine, including common interest issues not yet litigated

before this Court. Waymo states only that it “does not plan to ask questions at trial that were asked at Mr. Gardner’s deposition and in response to which he refused to answer on the basis of privilege or that his counsel instructed him not to answer on the basis of privilege.” (Dkt. 2523 at 3) Waymo provides no other information as to the intended scope of its examination of Mr. Gardner. (Dkt. at 2, 3) Since Waymo did not agree to limit its examination to questions asked at Mr. Gardner’s deposition, its proffered assurance that it will not seek privileged information is cold comfort and is insufficient to demonstrate that Mr. Gardner will not be asked questions on the stand that will require him to attempt to make complex privilege determinations during his testimony.

B. The Court Has Authority to Order Waymo to Provide its Direct Examination Questions in Advance of Trial

First, Waymo argues that Mr. Gardner’s request for an order compelling Waymo to provide his counsel with its proposed questions should be denied because no reported case relies on FRE 611 as the basis for such relief. Rule 611(a) is not narrowly drafted, but rather grants the Court broad flexibility in dealing with the myriad issues that may arise in the course of the examination of witnesses at trial.¹ As the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 611(a) put it:

Spelling out detailed rules to govern the mode and order of interrogating witnesses presenting evidence is neither desirable nor feasible. The ultimate responsibility for the effective working of the adversary system rests with the judge. The rule sets forth the objectives which he should seek to attain.

The order Mr. Gardner requests falls squarely within the policy objectives of Rule

¹ Rule 611(a) provides:

“Control by the Court; Purposes. The court should exercise reasonable control over the mode and order of examining witnesses and presenting evidence so as to:

- (1) make those procedures effective for determining the truth;
- (2) avoid wasting time; and
- (3) protect witnesses from harassment or undue embarrassment.”

1 611(a). The proposed order will (i) avoid wasting trial time with questions requiring Mr.
 2 Gardner to make repeated privilege assertions and interrupting Mr. Gardner's testimony in
 3 order for the Court to make privilege rulings, and (ii) protect the witness from harassment in
 4 making difficult and complex privilege determinations during the course of his testimony.
 5 The relief requested is plainly within the Court's authority under Rule 611(a).

6 Next, Waymo quibbles with the two Ninth Circuit cases dealing with Fed. R. Civ. P.
 7 16(a) cited by Mr. Gardner, pointing to minor factual distinctions, and arguing that in those
 8 cases the party was ordered to submit its planned examination questions to the court rather
 9 than to the witness. In one of the cases, however, the Ninth Circuit described the order as
 10 requiring the plaintiff "to submit to the court, *and opposing counsel*, the questions he
 11 intended to ask witnesses on direct examination." *Miller v. Los Angeles County Bd. of Ed.*,
 12 799 F.2d 486, 487 (9th Cir. 1986) (emphasis added). In the other, it is not clear from the
 13 Ninth Circuit's description of the order whether or not opposing counsel was also given
 14 advance notice of the questions, along with the court. *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833
 15 F.2d 128, 129, 133 (9th Cir. 1987), *cert. denied*, 488 U.S. 819 (1988).

16 By the same token, whether the underlying factual circumstances justifying the orders
 17 in *Malone* and *Miller* differ somewhat from those here is equally immaterial, because the
 18 motivating rationale is the same. In *Malone* and *Miller*, the circumstances threatening to
 19 waste trial time and impair efficiency were, respectively, a plaintiff's counsel with a
 20 demonstrated history of trying the case in an "inefficient manner" (833 F.2d at 129) and a *pro*
 21 *se* plaintiff, whom the district court had concluded, "... was likely to pose questions at trial
 22 that would warrant continuous objection by his adversary." (799 F.2d at 488). In this case,
 23 the circumstance threatening trial time and efficiency is the significant likelihood that
 24 Waymo's questioning at trial will implicate information that is subject to one or more
 25 privileges held by Mr. Gardner's multiple clients in this complex case, placing Mr. Gardner
 26 in the position of repeatedly invoking the privilege in front of the jury as he tries to ensure
 27 that he makes all legitimate assertions of any applicable privileges – privilege not held by Mr.
 28 Gardner but held by his clients. Requiring Waymo to submit its planned questions in advance

1 of trial will avoid the likely disruption and delay at trial and the undue burden on Mr.
2 Gardner.

3 FRE 611(a) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(a) simply codify the Court's inherent power to
4 manage trials, an independent basis for this order that Waymo does not address. *Cf. Luce v.*
5 *United States*, 469 U.S. 38, 41, fn. 4 (1984) ("the district court's inherent authority to manage
6 the course of trials" gives it the power to issue in limine rulings, even though the federal rules
7 of evidence "do not explicitly authorize" them); *United States v. Lynch*, 2016 U.S. Dist.
8 LEXIS 116160, at *5-*6 (W.D. Pa. Aug. 30, 2016) ("the inherent power of a district court to
9 manage cases before it in a just and efficient manner is codified" in FRE 611(a) and other
10 rules governing procedure in federal court and allowed district court to impose time limits on
11 parties' presentation time at trial).

12 **III. CONCLUSION**

13 For the foregoing reasons, Mr. Gardner respectfully requests that this Court order
14 Waymo to disclose the questions it intends to ask Mr. Gardner on direct examination at trial.
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16 Dated: January 26, 2018

ROGERS JOSEPH O'DONNELL

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